

**General Assembly**

Distr.: General
10 August 2005

Original: English

Sixtieth session

Item 73 (a) of the provisional agenda*

Human rights questions: implementation of human rights instruments

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture**Report of the Secretary-General***Summary*

The present report is submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 36/151 and 59/182, and describes the recommendations for grants to beneficiary organizations that were adopted by the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture at its twenty-third and twenty-fourth sessions and subsequently approved by the Secretary-General on the basis of contributions received since the twenty-second session of the Board, held in May 2003. The report also provides information on the recommendations made by the Office of Internal Oversight Services following a request by the Commission on Human Rights, in paragraph 39 of its resolution 2003/32, for "an independent evaluation, in accordance with United Nations rules and regulations, of the functioning of the Fund, including in particular the lessons and best practices learned from the Fund's activities, with a view to further enhancing its effectiveness". The measures taken by the secretariat of the Fund to implement those recommendations are also described in the report.

* A/60/150.



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I. Introduction

A. Submission of the report

1. The present report was prepared in accordance with the arrangements approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 36/151 of 16 December 1981, by which it established the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture. The report sets out the recommendations adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Fund at its twenty-third and twenty-fourth sessions, which were held in Geneva from 4 to 8 October 2004 and 13 to 22 April 2005, respectively. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights approved those recommendations on behalf of the Secretary-General. The present report complements the report on the activities of the Fund submitted to the Commission on Human Rights at its sixty-first session (E/CN.4/2005/54 and Corr.1). The Secretariat informed the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session (A/59/353) that, as the annual session of the Board of Trustees of the Fund had been postponed to October 2004, a comprehensive report would be submitted to the Assembly at its sixtieth session.

B. Mandate of the Fund

2. The Fund receives voluntary contributions from Governments, non-governmental organizations and individuals. In accordance with the practice established by its Board of Trustees in 1982, the Fund provides grants to non-governmental organizations that submit projects involving medical, psychological, social, financial, legal and humanitarian or other forms of assistance to torture victims and their relatives. The list of organizations financed by the Fund in 2005 can be found in annex I to the present report.

C. Board of Trustees

3. The Secretary-General administers the Fund through the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) with the advice of a Board of Trustees composed of five members acting in their personal capacity, appointed by the Secretary-General with due regard to equitable geographical distribution and in consultation with their Governments. In August 2004, the Secretary-General appointed the following members for a transitional period of one year: Ribot Hatano (Japan), Sonia Picado (Costa Rica), Ivan Tosevski (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), Theo van Boven (Netherlands) and Amos Wako (Kenya). The renewal of the membership of the Board is in progress and should be finalized in August 2005. The Secretary-General has requested that the criteria for the appointment of new members be elaborated. He has suggested that such criteria could include the following:

(a) Members of the Board of Trustees should be independent experts acting in their personal capacity. The principle of independence requires that the members not be subject to direction or influence of any kind or to pressure from the State or its agencies in regard to the performance of their duties. It also requires that, as a rule, members not be financially associated with organizations benefiting from the support of the Fund;

(b) Members of the Board should be appointed with respect for gender balance and equitable geographical distribution, in consultation with their Governments. Outgoing members should be replaced by members from other countries in the same region;

(c) Members should have wide experience in the field of human rights, in particular in the fight against torture, and knowledge of fund-raising, allocation of funds and project management;

(d) Members should be appointed for a three-year term, renewable once;

(e) Members should abstain from engaging in any functions or activities that may appear to be not readily reconcilable with their independence;

(f) Members should be able to dedicate the time necessary to fulfil their mandate.

D. Admissibility criteria

4. Project admissibility criteria are outlined in the Fund's guidelines. They require a project to be presented by a non-governmental organization. The beneficiaries must be victims of torture as defined in article 1 of the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Being Subjected to Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (resolution 3452 (XXX)). Priority is given to projects providing direct assistance to torture victims. This could consist of medical or psychological assistance, help with social or financial reintegration through vocational training for victims or legal assistance to secure compensation for victims or members of their families. Depending on the funds available, the Fund can finance projects to organize training programmes, seminars or conferences to allow health-care professionals or other service providers to exchange best practices. However, grant requests for projects involving investigation, research, studies, publications or similar activities are not admissible. The Fund can provide emergency assistance to individual cases in countries where no project is receiving support. This type of request is examined according to a specific procedure outlined in the guidelines. Detailed information on the various types of assistance provided through the projects financed by the Fund and their impact on beneficiaries can be found in the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session (A/58/284, paras. 27-34).

II. Twenty-third session of the Board of Trustees

5. The Board of Trustees held its twenty-third session from 4 to 8 October 2004 and made recommendations for grants in the total amount of \$6.7 million to 172 organizations in 61 countries. The High Commissioner for Human Rights approved those recommendations on 11 October 2004 on behalf of the Secretary-General.

6. In spite of the limited resources available, and consistent with recommendation 3 of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Fund (see E/CN.4/2005/55, para. 76), the Board resumed its practice of financing training and seminars, thus allowing health professionals, social workers, lawyers and other service providers to exchange experiences and develop new strategies to address the

needs of torture victims. The Board recommended an allocation of \$57,000 to nine organizations for training to be organized between the end of the twenty-third session and the beginning of 2005.

7. The Board expressed satisfaction with the efforts undertaken by the Secretariat since its previous session to organize assessment visits to projects in the field. From 2002 to October 2004, 58 projects in 16 countries had been evaluated by staff of OHCHR or United Nations field presences. Visits contributed to ensuring that the funds received were used for the purpose intended. The Secretariat also worked closely with field presences of OHCHR and other United Nations field presences, where possible, to ensure that the new proposals received complied with the Fund's admissibility criteria for the selection of projects. No new project can receive funding before a pre-screening visit has taken place and a positive assessment made, confirming that all eligibility criteria have been met. More detailed information on the twenty-third session of the Board is contained in the report of the Secretary-General to the Commission on Human Rights at its sixty-first session (E/CN.4/2005/54).

III. Twenty-fourth session of the Board of Trustees

8. At its twenty-fourth session, held from 13 to 22 April 2005, the Board recommended that \$8.5 million be allocated to new grants, after the statutory deduction of the cash reserve for next year and programme support costs, to 186 projects in 68 countries for the year 2005. The High Commissioner for Human Rights, on behalf of the Secretary-General, approved those recommendations on 27 May 2005. In addition, the Board approved the paragraph on the Fund to be included in the joint statement to be issued on the occasion of the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture (see annex II).

A. Change in the funding cycle

9. During the session, the Board implemented recommendation 10 of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (see E/CN.4/2005/55, para. 76), following its evaluation of the functioning of the Fund, whereby "support from the Fund should be for a *future* period, rather than for one that has largely passed, and the funding cycle should be changed accordingly". The Board established that the funding cycle should be adjusted to the calendar year over a three-year period to ensure that by 2008 grants would be paid to beneficiary organizations early in the year. It was therefore decided that grants allocated in 2005 and 2006 would cover an 18-month period, according to table 1, allowing for a complete new cycle in 2008. In addition to the amount allocated for 2005, the Board also recommended that \$3.1 million be paid to grantees in January 2006, contingent upon the availability of funds, to cover the first half of 2006. Grantees will therefore receive funding in two instalments: the first will cover the period from January to December 2005, and the second, the period from January to June 2006.

Table 1
Funding cycle

<i>Sessions of the Board</i>	<i>Grant allocation period</i>
Twenty-fourth session: April 2005	January 2005-June 2006
Twenty-fifth session: April 2006	July 2006-December 2007
Twenty-sixth session: October 2007	January-December 2008

B. Financial situation of the Fund

10. Taking into consideration the change in the funding cycle of the Fund and the fact that grants were allocated to cover an 18-month period, the Board had to rely on contributions from regular donors which had not yet been received at the time of its twenty-fourth session.

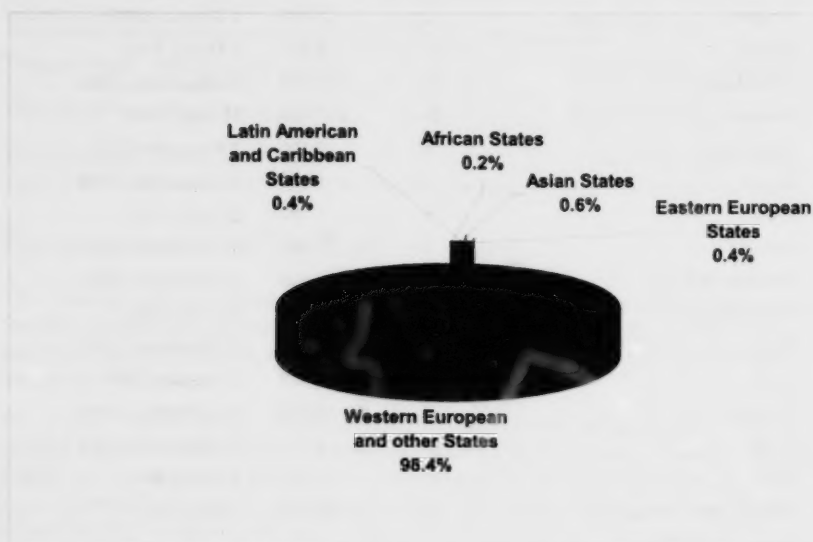
11. Table 2 indicates the contributions received for the attribution of grants at the twenty-fourth session of the Board, as well as outstanding pledges made by Member States. It includes contributions received between April and July 2005, which have been allocated to grants recommended at the twenty-fourth session. Figure 1 illustrates the contributions and pledges received during the period by regional group.

Table 2
List of contributions received for the twenty-fourth session

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Contribution number</i>	<i>Amount (in United States dollars)</i>	<i>Date recorded</i>
States			
Algeria	15	5 000	31 January 2005
Bahrain	2	10 000	15 October 2004
Idem	3	5 000	6 June 2005
Belgium	15	92 363	19 October 2004
Chile	13	5 000	29 September 2004
Idem	14	5 000	5 July 2005
Cyprus	16	6 705	24 April 2004
Czech Republic	9	12 076	4 November 2004
Idem	10	12 019	5 July 2005
Denmark	23	334 309	6 June 2005
France	27	61 354	15 September 2004
Idem	28	135 336	19 January 2005
Ireland	21	188 205	13 June 2005
Liechtenstein	17	8 850	26 January 2005
Luxembourg	20	24 630	26 October 2004

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Contribution number</i>	<i>Amount (in United States dollars)</i>	<i>Date recorded</i>
Mexico	2	15 000	8 October 2004
Monaco	12	10 000	9 March 2005
Netherlands	24	225 000	14 December 2004
Norway	20	157 766	11 April 2005
Philippines	6	2 500	2 November 2005
Poland	5	5 000	17 September 2005
Idem	6	5 000	24 June 2005
Portugal	8	15 000	31 December 2005
Republic of Korea	10	10 000	28 December 2004
South Africa	10	15 027	15 June 2005
Spain	20	55 000	17 December 2005
Idem	21	332 429	10 January 2005
Thailand	2	10 000	16 September 2004
Tunisia	14	1 659	29 September 2004
Idem	15	1 651	9 March 2005
United States of America	25	6 944 000	20 May 2005
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	2	5 000	3 November 2004
Idem	3	5 000	3 November 2004
	4	5 000	3 November 2004
Individuals			
R. A. Kerr	1	500	8 December 2004
Rita Maran	16	50	3 June 2005
Yorio Shiokawa	4	417	28 April 2005
Total contributions		8 736 785	
Pledges			
Austria	22	39 734	28 June 2005
Finland	23	176 115	20 July 2005
Kuwait	1	10 000	1 January 2003
Luxembourg	21	22 639	12 May 2005
Netherlands	25	1 000 000	14 April 2005
Serbia and Montenegro	1	5 000	1 January 2004
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	18	190 839	10 May 2005
Total		1 444 327	

Figure 1
Contributions received, by regional group



C. Recommendations adopted by the Board

12. The Board reviewed information prepared by its secretariat concerning 255 projects, including the analysis of narrative, financial and audit reports on the use of grants paid in previous years. It also considered requests for new grants amounting to \$14.1 million for projects to be implemented in 2005/06. Figure 2 provides information on the geographical distribution of grants made by the Board at its twenty-fourth session, while table 3 identifies the number of projects subsidized in 2005, by region. The Board continued its practice of financing requests for training and seminars, and recommended an amount of \$50,000 for the organization of six workshops. In accordance with the Fund's guidelines, the Board also recommended the allocation of \$125,000 for emergency assistance to organizations encountering unforeseen financial difficulties during the intersessional period or to fulfil individual requests meeting the requirements of the Fund.

Figure 2
Geographical distribution of grants, by regional group, at the twenty-fourth session

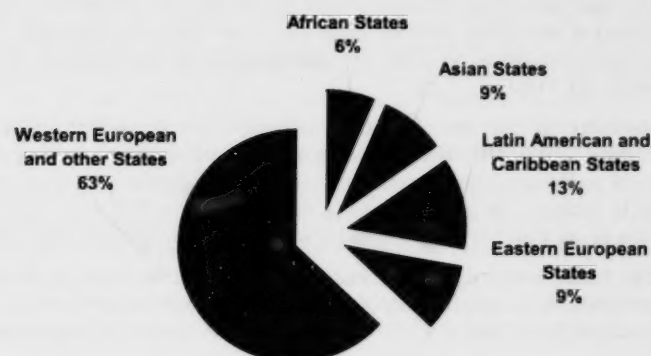


Table 3
Number of subsidized projects in 2005, by regional group

	<i>Number of projects</i>	<i>Amount in United States dollars</i>
African States	24	554 500
Asian States	22	745 000
Latin American and Caribbean States	27	1 089 000
Eastern European States	24	772 500
Western European and other States	89	5 404 000
Total	186	8 565 000

13. While more than half the grants disbursed at the twenty-fourth session were made to organizations based in Western countries, the recipients of that aid are mostly refugees or asylum-seekers from other geographic regions; however, the Board recommended that the secretariat be more proactive in identifying organizations in developing countries, in particular in Africa, that might merit funding. It encouraged field presences of OHCHR to identify such projects and called upon the secretariat to undertake this activity during its regular monitoring and evaluation missions. The Board also requested that the secretariat provide proposals to it at its twenty-fifth session on ways and means of establishing a budget line to assist organizations working on the rehabilitation of victims of torture through the field activities of OHCHR.

14. The Board was pleased that 72 projects in 28 countries had been visited since its previous session. The Board appreciated the efforts made by the secretariat, United Nations field presences and United Nations funds and programmes to undertake evaluation missions of both ongoing and new projects. It recommended that, in future, consideration be given to increasing the allocation of funds for evaluation and monitoring, which could amount to 1 per cent of the budget of the Fund.

15. The secretariat was also encouraged to continue its cooperation and exchange of information with other funding agencies, in particular the European Commission and the Oak Foundation, in order to better monitor the management of the projects financed by the Fund.

16. Members of the Board held a meeting with the Chief of the Resource Mobilization Unit of OHCHR to exchange ideas with regard to funding possibilities. The Board encouraged the secretariat of the Fund to continue to work with the Unit in order to increase the contributions to the Fund and to find ways of increasing the allocation to the Fund of unearmarked contributions received by OHCHR.

17. The Board noted that work was progressing on the book, to be launched on 26 June 2006, to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fund, and recommended that a further \$110,000 be set aside to ensure its completion.

18. The Board expressed appreciation for the requests to the Secretary-General made by the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights in their most recent resolutions on the question of torture to ensure the provision of adequate staff and facilities for the bodies and mechanisms involved in combating torture. It noted that the increase in the number of applications received each year would require strengthening of the capacity of the secretariat. It recommended that adequate staff, equipment, materials and facilities be provided to ensure the efficient functioning of the secretariat of the Fund and the Board. Members of the Board welcomed the information that a computer expert would begin to work on the computerization of the operations of the secretariat of the Fund in July 2005 and recommended that a further \$100,000 be set aside to provide the secretariat with the necessary technological support.

19. Members of the Board took note of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Fund conducted pursuant to paragraph 39 of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2003/32, which they discussed with interest. They welcomed some of its recommendations, in particular those relating to the need to improve the geographical balance of projects funded, a more active role for the Board of Trustees in fund-raising and the multi-year funding proposal.

20. On the basis of the information available to it, the Board estimated that the needs for 2006, including with respect to applications for direct assistance and for training and seminars, would amount to approximately \$15 million.

IV. Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the Fund

21. At the request of the Commission on Human Rights, the Office of Internal Oversight Services initiated an independent evaluation in December 2003, in accordance with United Nations regulations and rules, of the functioning of the Fund, including, in particular, the lessons and best practices learned from the Fund's activities, with a view to further enhancing its effectiveness. The findings and recommendations of the Office are contained in a report to the Commission at its sixty-first session (E/CN.4/2005/55). The following paragraphs provide information on action taken by the secretariat and the Board of Trustees to implement those recommendations. Background papers will be presented to the Board at its twenty-sixth session to assist in making policy decisions on other recommendations.

22. **Recommendation 1** was "more consistent application of the definition of torture". As the implementation of this recommendation requires advice from the Board of Trustees, it will need to be considered by the Board at its next session. At present, when the secretariat is confronted with borderline cases, it seeks the advice of the Board; members of the Board are also consulted during the intersessional period on this issue.

23. **Recommendation 2** was "clarification on treatment of family members" of torture victims, who are also beneficiaries of the numerous projects financed by the Fund. Likewise, the implementation of this recommendation will require guidance from the Board of Trustees, and a background paper will be prepared for its next session.

24. **Recommendation 3** called for "awarding grants for training", in particular training of staff of grantee organizations. Since its twenty-third session, in October 2004, the Board has resumed the practice of financing training and seminars, thus allowing service providers from different organizations to exchange experiences, best practices and lessons learned. At its last session, \$50,000 was allocated to six workshops.

25. **Recommendation 4**, "greater geographical balance in grant allocation", called for a proactive approach by the secretariat in identifying potential grantees. When reviewing applications, requests received from Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean are given priority. Those regions are normally considered at the outset of the session, while applications from the group of Western European and other States are reviewed at a later stage. Since 2004, the secretariat has encouraged United Nations field presences to identify suitable applicants from regions that are underfunded when carrying out evaluations of existing projects. At its last session, the Board recommended that the secretariat be more proactive in identifying organizations in developing countries that could be eligible for funding.

26. With regard to **recommendation 5**, "strengthened requirements for admissibility" for new applicants, since 2004 no grant has been released to a new applicant organization before a visit has confirmed that the eligibility criteria have been met.

27. **Recommendation 6** called for a "more strategic funding formula", inter alia, through multi-year project approval for three-year periods for projects with a good track record. The Board will also be provided with a background paper on possible

funding priorities and with possible proposals for multi-year funding when the change in the funding cycle is implemented.

28. **Recommendation 7** was "better use of the Board of Trustees". It stressed the need to reinforce the role of the Board as a policymaking organ, in particular with regard to priority-setting and impact assessment. At its next session, in April 2006, the Board will discuss a number of policy issues, and the secretariat foresees convening a meeting of the Board in April 2007 to discuss methods of work, guidelines for applicants and the secretariat, strategies, priorities and fund-raising. Thereafter, a meeting will be convened every year in April to discuss substantive issues, while the annual meeting to allocate grants will be held in October.

29. **Recommendation 8** called for "increased staffing", taking into account the complexity of the issues dealt with by the secretariat and the portfolio of projects. Two new staff members with strong backgrounds in management and information and technology have been recruited in 2005 to reinforce the present secretariat.

30. **Recommendation 9** called for "strengthened management systems". An amount of \$150,000 was approved by the Board of Trustees at its twenty-third session for the purchase or design of a management system meeting the requirements of the Fund. At its twenty-fourth session, the Board recommended that a further \$100,000 be set aside to provide the secretariat with the required technological support. In July 2005, a computer expert began work on the computerization of the operations of the secretariat of the Fund, which will allow for the generation of statistics on the number, gender and age of the victims assisted and the types of assistance provided by the various projects financed, and will allow organizations to apply and report online.

31. **Recommendation 10**, calling for an "improved funding cycle" by allocating grants for a "future period, rather than one that has largely passed", was implemented at the twenty-fourth session of the Board (see para. 9 above) through the allocation of grants for an 18-month period. The same will occur in 2006 so that a complete new cycle will start in 2008, when grants will be paid at the beginning of the calendar year.

32. **Recommendation 11** called for a "systematic and ongoing monitoring and evaluation system". Of the 238 currently active projects, 178 have been evaluated by staff of OHCHR and United Nations field presences since the year 2000. A schedule of visits has been established whereby all ongoing projects will have been visited by the end of 2006. Thereafter, follow-up visits will be undertaken every four to five years more often, if required.

33. In order to address **recommendation 12**, "enhanced reporting on Fund activities and impact", the preparation of a book on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fund, to be launched on 26 June 2006, has begun. The book will seek to demonstrate the impact of the Fund on the lives of victims of torture through the work of the organizations financed. Other dissemination tools, such as a fact sheet and a remodelled web page, will also be prepared. The computerization of the operations of the Fund will allow the secretariat to generate statistics on the type of assistance provided by grantees, the number of beneficiaries, their age, gender and other relevant data for inclusion in the annual reports of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights.

34. With respect to **recommendation 13**, "strengthened financial monitoring", including a threshold for audit reports, the Board, at its twenty-third session, established that grantees receiving less than \$15,000 are not required to produce audit reports. The auditors of the Office of Internal Oversight Services have agreed to elaborate criteria, in accordance with international accounting standards, to facilitate the review of audit reports by the secretariat of the Fund. In addition, a new staff member with a background in grant management and accounting has recently been recruited.

35. **Recommendation 14** called for the "creation of a technical adviser roster", an issue which will require a policy decision by the Board at a future session.

36. **Recommendation 15** called for "commencement of capacity-building of grantees". It is foreseen that, in the framework of the ongoing computerization of the operations of the Fund, a forum will be designed allowing organizations assisting torture survivors worldwide to exchange experiences and perspectives online.

37. **Recommendation 16** called for "stronger donor relations" and for grantees to be invited to donor meetings. The Fund has accordingly strengthened its relations with donors: five regional meetings were organized for donors and the Chairman of the Board in March 2005. Beneficiary organizations from the five geographical regions were invited to brief donors on their activities, thereby illustrating the direct impact the Fund has on the lives of the assisted victims. Fund-raising will be a priority issue considered by the Board at its next session, together with the various policy issues indicated above. The secretariat foresees organizing a meeting at the next session of the Board with other institutional donors to address the issue of greater synergy.

V. Needs assessment for 2006

38. On the basis of applications received for 2005, the Board estimated at its twenty-fourth session that requests for approximately \$15 million should be expected for the year 2006. If, at its next session, the Board were to allocate grants with a zero-growth increase compared to 2005, a minimum amount of \$11.6 million would be required after deduction of the cash reserve and programme support costs, taking into account the fact that the grants allocated will need to cover an 18-month period.

VI. How to make a contribution to the Fund

39. Contributions to the Fund should always be marked as follows: "payee: United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, account CH". Payments may be made either by bank transfer: (a) in United States dollars or in other currencies to "United Nations Geneva General Fund", account No. 485001802, J.P. Morgan Chase Bank, New York, N.Y. 10004, U.S.A. (Swift code: CHASUS33); (b) in euros and pounds sterling to "United Nations Office at Geneva", account No. 23961901, J.P. Morgan Chase Bank, London, P. O. Box 440, Wollgate House, Coleman Street, London, United Kingdom (Swift code: CHASGB2L); (c) in Swiss francs to "United Nations Geneva General Fund", account No. 240-C0590160.0, UBS, rue du Rhône

8, Geneva 2, Switzerland (Swift code: UBSWCHZH12A); or (d) by cheque payable to "United Nations" addressed to: Trésorerie, Nations Unies, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland. Donors are requested to inform the secretariat of the Fund and the Resource Mobilization Unit of OHCHR when a payment has been made (a copy of the bank transfer order or of the cheque would be appreciated) to facilitate effective follow-up of the official recording procedure and preparation of the Secretary-General's reports.

VII. Conclusions and recommendations

40. Pursuant to the appeals by the General Assembly, the Commission on Human Rights and the Board of Trustees of the Fund, donors are invited to pay their contributions to the Fund before March 2006 to enable the Board to take them into account at its twenty-fifth session, in April 2006.

41. The General Assembly, the Commission and the Board have also urged regular donors to increase their contributions, if possible, in order to provide the Board with the resources to meet the growing needs of torture victims and the members of their families.

42. The Board strongly encourages Governments that have not yet contributed to the Fund to do so for the first time, preferably before March 2006.

Annex I

List of organizations and activities financed by the Fund in 2005, by regional group

<i>Name of organization</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Type of assistance provided</i>
African States		
Action pour l'éducation au droit	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Medical, psychological and legal
African Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims	Uganda	Medical, psychological, social, legal and financial
Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation	South Africa	Psychological
Centre africain de la prévention et de la résolution de conflits	Senegal	Medical, social and legal
Centre d'Accueil et d'Orientation des Victimes de la Torture	Morocco	Medical, psychological, social
Centre for Education and the Defence of Human Rights	United Republic of Tanzania	Medical, social
Centre pour la promotion et la défense des droits de l'homme	United Republic of Tanzania	Medical, psychological, social, financial and legal
Concerned Christian Community	Liberia	Medical, psychological and financial
Fondation IDOLE	Cameroon	Psychological and social
Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society	Kenya	Social, legal and financial
Independent Medico-Legal Unit	Kenya	Medical, psychological and legal
Kanyarwanda	Rwanda	Medical, psychological and social
La Voix des Sans-Voix pour les droits de l'homme	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Medical and social
Litigation Fund Against Torture	Kenya	Social
Mwatikho Torture Survivors Organization	Kenya	Medical, psychological and legal
Observatoire Congolais des Droits Humains	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Medical, psychological, legal and social
Oeuvres sociales pour le développement	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Medical, psychological, social, financial and legal
Prisoners Rehabilitation and Welfare Action	Nigeria	Medical, psychological, financial and legal

<i>Name of organization</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Type of assistance provided</i>
Rwandan Women's Community Development Network	Rwanda	Medical, psychological and social
Solidarité pour la promotion sociale et la paix	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Medical, social and legal
Trauma Center in Yaoundé	Cameroon	Medical, psychological, social and financial
Trauma Centre for Survivors of Violence and Torture	South Africa	Medical, psychological, social and legal
Une Femme qui en Soulève une Autre	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Medical, psychological, social, legal and financial
Women's Aid Collective	Nigeria	Psychological, social, legal and financial
Asian States		
Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances	Philippines	Psychological
Asian Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Network (AITPN)	India	Medical, social and legal
Balay Rehabilitation Centre	Philippines	Medical, psychological, social, legal and financial
Bangladesh Rehabilitation Centre for Trauma Victims	Bangladesh	Medical, psychological, legal and financial
Centre for Care of Victims of Torture	India	Medical, psychological, social, legal
Families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearances	Philippines	Medical, psychological and legal
Gaza Community Mental Health Programme	Occupied Palestinian Territories	Psychological and social
Home for Human Rights	Sri Lanka	Medical, psychological, social and legal
International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims	Iraq	Medical
Khiam Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture	Lebanon	Medical, psychological and social
Mandela Institute for Human Rights	Occupied Palestinian Territories	Medical, psychological, social, legal
Naogaon Human Rights Development Association	Bangladesh	Medical, psychological, social, legal, financial
Organization of the Parents and Family Members of the Disappeared	Sri Lanka	Medical, psychological, financial

<i>Name of organization</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Type of assistance provided</i>
Physicians for Human Rights	Israel	Medical, psychological, legal
Public Committee Against Torture in Israel	Israel	Legal assistance
Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture	Pakistan	Medical, psychological and social
Restart Tripoli Centre	Lebanon	Medical and psychological
Rural Effective Social Development Organization	Bangladesh	Medical and financial
Society for Social Research, Art and Culture	India	Medical, psychological and social
The Korean Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims and families	Republic of Korea	Medical, psychological, legal, financial
Top India Trust	India	Medical, psychological, social
Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture	Occupied Palestinian Territories	Medical, psychological and social
Yosua Prison Ministry	Indonesia	Medical, psychological, social and financial
Latin American and Caribbean States		
Abuelas de la Plaza de Mayo	Argentina	Psychological
Asociación para la Salud y el Desarrollo Integral de Momostenango	Guatemala	Medical, psychological, social, financial
Association of Christians for the Abolition of Torture	Brazil	Medical, psychological, social and legal
CAPS/Lima	Peru	Psychological and social
Centre for Legal and Social Studies	Argentina	Medical, psychological, social and legal
Centro Alternativas	Chile	Medical, psychological and social
Centro de Estudios Fronterizos y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos	Mexico	Medical, psychological, legal and social
Centro de Salud Mental y Derechos Humanos	Chile	Medical, psychological and social
Comisión de Derechos Humanos de El Salvador	El Salvador	Medical and psychological
Comisión de Derechos Humanos	Peru	Medical, psychological, social, legal and financial

<i>Name of organization</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Type of assistance provided</i>
Comité para la Defensa de la Salud, la Ética Profesional y los Derechos Humanos	Argentina	Medical, psychological, social and legal
Equipo Argentino de Trabajo e Investigación Psicosocial	Argentina	Medical, psychological, social and legal
Equipo de Denuncia, Investigación y Tratamiento del Torturado y su Núcleo Familiar, Corporación de Promoción y Defensa de los Derechos del Pueblo	Chile	Medical, psychological and legal
Equipo de Estudios Comunitarios y Acción Psicosocial	Guatemala	Social and psychological
Fundación de Ayuda Social de las Iglesias Cristianas	Chile	Medical, psychological, social, legal and financial
Fundación Ecuéménica para el Desarrollo y la Paz	Peru	Medical, psychological, social and legal
Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society	Ecuador	Social, legal and financial
Instituto de Terapia e Investigación	Bolivia	Medical, psychological, legal, social
Red de Apoyo	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Medical, psychological, social and legal
Réseau Sud pour la défense des droits humains	Haiti	Medical, legal and financial
Richmond Fellowship	Peru	Training
Social Rehabilitation Service	Uruguay	Medical, psychological and social
Terre des hommes	Colombia	Medical, psychological and social
Tortura Nunca Mas	Brazil	Medical, psychological, social and legal
Union des formateurs animateurs du Sud en éducation civique et le respect des droits humains	Haiti	Medical and legal
Eastern European States		
Albanian Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims	Albania	Medical, psychological and social
Assistance Centre for Torture Survivors	Bulgaria	Medical, psychological, social and legal
Association for Rehabilitation of Torture Victims — Centre for Torture Victims	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Medical, psychological and social

<i>Name of organization</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Type of assistance provided</i>
Association of Concentration Camp Inmates, Sarajevo	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Social and financial
Centre for Torture Victims	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Medical, psychological and social
Centre for Torture Victims — International Aid Network — Medica Zenica	Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro	Medical, psychological and social
Centre for Victims of Political Persecutions	Poland	Medical, psychological and legal
Cordelia Foundation	Hungary	Medical and psychological
Empathy	Georgia	Medical, psychological and social
Fund Against Violation of Law	Armenia	Medical, psychological, social and legal
Georgian Centre for Psychosocial and Medical Rehabilitation of Torture Victims	Georgia	Medical, psychological, social and legal
Human Rights Society	Russian Federation	Medical, psychological and legal
ICAR Foundation	Romania	Medical, psychological, social and legal
International Aid Network	Serbia and Montenegro	Medical, psychological, social and legal
International Medical Rehabilitation Centre for the Victims of Wars and Totalitarian Regimes	Ukraine	Medical, psychological, social, legal
International Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims	Croatia	Medical, legal and financial
Khorezm Regional Department of Human Rights Society of Uzbekistan	Uzbekistan	Medical, social and legal
Kosova Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims	Kosovo, Serbia and Montenegro	Medical, psychological and social
Latvia Medical Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims and their Families	Latvia	Medical, psychological, legal and social
Medical Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims "Memoria"	Republic of Moldova	Medical, psychological, social and legal
Romanian Independent Society of Human Rights	Romania	Legal
Society of Citizens Assisting Migrants	Czech Republic	Psychological and legal
Soldiers' Mothers of St. Petersburg	Russian Federation	Medical, psychological, social and legal

<i>Name of organization</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Type of assistance provided</i>
Stichting Russian Justice Initiative	Russian Federation	Legal
Western European and other States		
Advocates for Survivors of Trauma and Torture, Baltimore	United States of America	Medical, psychological, social and legal
Amigos de los Sobrevivientes	United States	Medical, psychological, social, legal and financial
Appartenances	Switzerland	Psychological
Arab Community Centre for Financial and Social Services	United States	Medical, psychological, social, legal and financial
Association for Services to Torture and Trauma Survivors	Australia	Psychological and social
Asian-Americans for Community Involvement	United States	Medical, psychological, social, financial and legal
Association pour les victimes de la répression en exil	France	Medical, psychological, social and legal
Associazione Volontaria di Assistenza Socio-Sanitaria e per i Diritti di Stranieri e Nomadi	Italy	Medical, psychological, social and legal
Bellevue Association	United States	Medical, psychological, social and legal
Boston Medical Centre	United States	Medical, psychological, social and legal
Bundesweite Arbeitsgemeinschaft der psychosozialen Zentren für Flüchtlinge und Folteropfer	Germany	Training
Calgary Catholic Immigration Society	Canada	Medical and psychological
Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture	Canada	Psychological
Caritas-Köln	Germany	Psychological
Casa dei Diritti Sociali — Focus, Rome	Italy	Psychological, social and legal
Centre for Survivors of Torture	United States	Medical, psychological and legal
Centre for the Treatment of Torture Victims	Germany	Medical, psychological, social and legal
Centre for Victims of Torture	United States	Medical, psychological and social
Centre d'accueil et de soins Primo Levi	France	Medical, psychological, social and legal

<i>Name of organization</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Type of assistance provided</i>
Centre d'action social, réhabilitation et adaptation (SOHRAM-CASRA)	Turkey	Medical, psychological, social, legal and financial
Centre for Advocacy, Support and Education for Refugees	Australia	Legal assistance
Centre for Multicultural Human Services	United States	Medical, psychological, social and legal
Centre for the Treatment of Torture Victims	Germany	Medical, psychological, social and legal
Centre international de ressources juridiques	Canada	Legal
Centre médico-psycho-social pour réfugiés et victimes de torture	Belgium	Medical, psychological and social
Centro Astalli	Italy	Social, legal and financial
Centro por la Justicia y el Derecho Internacional	United States	Legal
Comité médical pour les exilés	France	Medical, psychological and social
Croix-Rouge Suisse	Switzerland	Medical, psychological and social
Edmonton Centre for Survivors of Torture and Trauma	Canada	Psychological
El Rescate Legal Services	United States	Legal
Exil España, Fundació Concepció Juvanteny	Spain	Medical, psychological and social
Exilio Hilfe für Flüchtlinge und Folterüberlebende e.V.	Germany	Medical, psychological, social and legal
Fédération internationale des ligues des droits de l'homme	France	Legal
Greater Boston Legal Services	United States	Psychological and legal
Gulf Coast Community Care	United States	Medical, psychological, social and legal
OMEGA Health Care Centre	Austria	Medical, psychological and social
HEMAYAT	Austria	Medical and psychological
Human Rights Foundation of Turkey	Turkey	Medical, psychological and social
Human Rights Initiative of North Texas	United States	Medical and psychological
International Institute of Boston	United States	Psychological and social

<i>Name of organization</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Type of assistance provided</i>
International Institute of New Jersey	United States	Psychological, social and financial
Italian Refugee Council	Italy	Medical, psychological, social and legal
Khmer Health Advocates	United States	Psychological
Kurdish Human Rights Project	United Kingdom	Legal
Legal Aid Foundation	United States	Legal
Lowell Community Health Center	United States	Medical, psychological, social and financial
Lutheran Children	United States	Medical, psychological, social
Marjorie Kovler Centre for the Treatment of Survivors of Torture	United States	Medical, psychological, social and legal
Médecins sans frontière/les projets Belges	Belgium	Psychological and social
Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture	United Kingdom	Medical, psychological, social, legal and financial
Medical Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims	Greece	Medical, psychological, social and legal
Medici contro la tortura	Italy	Medical, psychological, social, legal and financial
Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights	United States	Legal
Organisation mondiale contre la torture	Switzerland	Medical, social and legal
OSIRIS	France	Medical and psychological
Ottawa-Carleton	Canada	Psychological
Parcours de jeunes	France	Medical and psychological
Penal Reform International	United Kingdom	Legal
Physicians for Human Rights	United States	Medical, psychological and legal
Prisoners of Conscience Appeal Fund	United Kingdom	Financial
Programme for Torture Victims	United States	Medical and psychological
Provident Counselling	United States	Medical
Red Cross Centre for Tortured Refugees in Stockholm	Sweden	Medical, psychological and social
Red Cross Centre for Victims of Torture in Falun	Sweden	Psychological and social

<i>Name of organization</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Type of assistance provided</i>
Red Cross Rehabilitation Centre for Torture and War Victims in Göteborg	Sweden	Medical, psychological and social
Red Cross Rehabilitation Centre in Uppsala	Sweden	Psychological and social
Redress Trust	United Kingdom	Legal
Refuge, Inc.	United States	Psychological and social
Refugee Therapy Centre	United Kingdom	Psychological and social
Refugio, Bremen	Germany	Psychological
Refugio, Munich	Germany	Medical, psychological, social and financial
Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims	Denmark	Medical, psychological and social
Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims	Turkey	Medical, psychological and legal
Réseau d'intervention auprès des personnes ayant subi la violence organisée	Canada	Medical, psychological and social
Response International/London	United Kingdom	Medical, psychological, social
Rocky Mountain Survivors Center	United States	Medical, psychological and legal
Roskill Union and Community Health Service, Inc.	New Zealand	Medical, psychological and social
Safe Horizon, Inc.	United States	Medical, psychological, social and legal
Service d'aide psychologique spécialisée aux immigrants et réfugiés	Canada	Psychological
SPIRASI Centre for the Care of Survivors of Torture	Ireland	Medical, psychological, social, legal and training
Sudanese Victims of Torture Group	United Kingdom	Medical, legal and financial
Survivors International	United States	Medical, psychological and social
Survivors of Torture, International	United States	Medical, psychological, social and legal
The Centre for Justice and Accountability	United States	Legal
The Treatment and Rehabilitation Unit for Survivors of Torture and Trauma	Australia	Medical, psychological, social and financial

<i>Name of organization</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Type of assistance provided</i>
Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition	United States	Medical, psychological, social, legal and financial
UDC-Gruppen ApS	Denmark	Medical, psychological, social, legal and financial
Unité de médecine des voyages et des migrations	Switzerland	Medical and psychological
Utah Health	United States	Medical, psychological, social and legal
Vancouver Association for Survivors of Torture	Canada	Psychological and social
Verein ZEBRA	Austria	Medical, psychological, social and legal
Women Against Rape	United Kingdom	Psychological, social, financial and legal
Xenion Psychosoziale Hilfen für politisch Verfolgte e.V.	Germany	Medical and psychological

Annex II

Joint statement on the occasion of the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, 26 June 2005

Recognizing that the lives of individuals, their well-being and sense of security continue to be scarred by torture on a daily basis, and that torture is reported with growing frequency from all regions of the world, on the occasion of the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, we, the United Nations Committee against Torture, the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the question of torture, the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights:

Reaffirm the concerns highlighted in our previous joint statements, re-emphasize the absolute nature of the prohibition of torture, including the principle of non-refoulement where there is a danger of an individual being subjected to torture, and stress that no exceptional circumstances may be invoked as a justification for torture.

Recall the obligation of States to take effective measures to prevent all acts of torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Stress that the importance of prevention cannot be overemphasized, and call for the universal ratification of the Convention against Torture and its Optional Protocol. Urge the creation or strengthening of national preventive mechanisms which are mandated to undertake independent visits to places of deprivation of liberty, as required by the Protocol.

Remind States parties to the Convention of the desirability of making the declaration under article 22 providing for individual communications.

Recall the obligation of States to investigate and punish all acts of torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment and strengthen efforts to fight impunity.

Recognizing the ordeals of victims and survivors of torture, both those who have spoken out and those who have suffered in silence, urge States to give effect to their obligation under the Convention to ensure that "the victim of an act of torture obtains redress and has an enforceable right to fair and adequate compensation, including the means for as full rehabilitation as possible". Recall that victims of torture have a right to sue for compensation, including civil compensation, which can be based upon universal jurisdiction. Urge the sixtieth session of the United Nations General Assembly to adopt the Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law and Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law.

Acknowledge the achievements of the Special Rapporteur on the question of Torture, whose mandate was created 20 years ago, and stress the importance of his work in preventing torture and protecting potential victims. Urge all States to issue a standing invitation and extend cooperation to the Special Rapporteur.

Recall that 10 years ago the Fourth World Conference on Women recognized that sexual violence and gender-based violence constitute torture where the State perpetrates such acts, consents or acquiesces to them. Highlight the need to raise

awareness of such forms of violence, including domestic violence, and to strengthen measures to prohibit and prevent, as well as investigate, prosecute and punish all such acts. Note that gender-based violence, including domestic violence, plays a particularly insidious role in teaching and perpetuating a culture of violence.

Recognize the key role of non-governmental organizations in providing assistance to survivors of torture and call upon Governments, private and public entities and individuals to express their solidarity with victims of torture and members of their families by contributing generously to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture.
